

Exhibit 15

In the Matter of:)
) File No. NY-09615-A
AMERICAN RIVER BANKSHARES)
(TISO))

The above-entitled matter came on for hearing, pursuant to notice, at 10:20 a.m.

Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.
(202) 467-9200

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 2</p> <p>1 APPEARANCES:</p> <p>2</p> <p>3 On behalf of the Securities and Exchange Commission:</p> <p>4 BENNETT ELLENBOGEN, ESQ.</p> <p>5 WENDY B. TEPPERMAN, ESQ.</p> <p>6 Securities and Exchange Commission</p> <p>7 Division of Enforcement</p> <p>8 200 Vesey Street</p> <p>9 New York, New York</p> <p>10</p> <p>11 On behalf of the Witness:</p> <p>12 (No appearance.)</p> <p>13</p> <p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 4</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 MR. ELLENBOGEN: We are on the</p> <p>3 record on July 23, 2019 at the New York</p> <p>4 regional offices of the Securities and</p> <p>5 Exchange Commission. I am Bennett</p> <p>6 Ellenbogen, and with me today is Wendy</p> <p>7 Tepperman, the Assistant Regional Director.</p> <p>8 It is 10:20 a.m., and the</p> <p>9 witness, James O'Brien, has not shown up.</p> <p>10 We have been informed by his counsel that</p> <p>11 he's not intending to show up. I just</p> <p>12 wanted to place a couple of things on the</p> <p>13 record today.</p> <p>14 On February 17, 2017, the staff</p> <p>15 obtained the Formal Order of Investigation</p> <p>16 in this matter. Subsequently, we've</p> <p>17 obtained two supplemental formal orders</p> <p>18 adding additional names to our Formal Order</p> <p>19 of Investigation. We obtained supplemental</p> <p>20 formal orders on May 14, 2019 and June 6,</p> <p>21 2019.</p> <p>22 MS. TEPPERMAN: The formal orders</p> <p>23 names us officers, the two of us here</p> <p>24 today.</p> <p>25 MR. ELLENBOGEN: And a number of</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 3</p> <p>1 CONTENTS</p> <p>2</p> <p>3 WITNESS: EXAMINATION</p> <p>4 (No appearance.)</p> <p>5</p> <p>6 EXHIBITS: DESCRIPTION IDENTIFIED</p> <p>7 (No exhibits identified.)</p> <p>8</p> <p>9</p> <p>10</p> <p>11</p> <p>12</p> <p>13</p> <p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 5</p> <p>1 other individuals who are not present</p> <p>2 today, but a number of other individuals.</p> <p>3 On March 15, 2019, Mr. O'Brien's</p> <p>4 attorney, John Hanamirian had agreed to</p> <p>5 accept service of the subpoena and we</p> <p>6 served Mr. O'Brien through Mr. Hanamirian.</p> <p>7 We've had marked as Exhibit Number 1, the</p> <p>8 e-mail from Mr. Hanamirian and his office</p> <p>9 agreeing to accept service of the subpoena.</p> <p>10 I've had marked as Exhibit Number 2, the</p> <p>11 May 15, 2019 subpoena to Mr. O'Brien and</p> <p>12 sent to Mr. Hanamirian on, as I said, on</p> <p>13 May 15, 2019.</p> <p>14 It wasn't until July 10th where</p> <p>15 Mr. Hanamirian first reached out to the</p> <p>16 staff to discuss the upcoming testimony and</p> <p>17 it wasn't until July 17th, that he first</p> <p>18 stated that his client would not testify in</p> <p>19 this matter. And prior to that, he also</p> <p>20 reached out to the staff on May 21st to</p> <p>21 discuss the date for Mr. O'Brien's</p> <p>22 testimony and we agreed to move the date to</p> <p>23 today, July 23rd.</p> <p>24 I've marked as Exhibit Number 3,</p> <p>25 the e-mail correspondence in May where we</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 6</p> <p>1 discussed moving the testimony date to 2 today, and then I've marked as Exhibit 3 Number 4, the e-mail correspondence in 4 July, the July 10th and July 17th e-mail 5 exchanges where Mr. Hanamirian first 6 expressed some reservations and then 7 refusing to have his client appear for 8 testimony. 9 Since that time with the 10 correspondence between the staff and Mr. 11 Hanamirian, the staff has made our position 12 clear that Mr. O'Brien was lawfully served 13 with a subpoena from the staff with a 14 formal order authority to issue subpoenas 15 and there was no legitimate reason for Mr. 16 O'Brien or Mr. Hanamirian to object to the 17 subpoena. 18 We reduced our position to a 19 letter, which we sent on July 22, 2019, and 20 we also offered in that letter to postpone 21 the testimony in order to give Mr. O'Brien 22 and his attorney time to reconsider and 23 review the case law and in order to avoid 24 any court intervention. 25 About a half hour after we sent</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 8</p> <p>1 PROOFREADER'S CERTIFICATE 2 In The Matter of: AMERICAN RIVER BANKSHARES 3 Witness: James O'Brien 4 File Number: NY-09615-A 5 Date: Tuesday, July 23, 2019 6 Location: New York, NY 7 8 This is to certify that I, Maria E. Paulsen, 9 (the undersigned), do hereby certify that the 10 foregoing transcript is a complete, true and accurate 11 transcription of all matters contained on the recorded 12 proceedings of the investigative testimony. 13 14 _____ 15 (Proofreader's Name) (Date) 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 7</p> <p>1 our letter, Mr. Hanamirian rejected our 2 claims, responded that he had already 3 provided his client's position in his last 4 e-mail. I've marked as Exhibit Number 5, 5 the July 22, 2019 letter to Mr. Hanamirian. 6 It is now 10:24 a.m. Again, the 7 witness has not shown up and we will end 8 the testimony today and take it from there 9 as we decide what we want to do going 10 forward. 11 With that, we'll go off the 12 record. 13 (Whereupon, at 10:24 a.m., the 14 examination was concluded.) 15 * * * * * 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 9</p> <p>1 CERTIFICATE 2 3 STATE OF NEW YORK) 4 :SS 5 COUNTY OF NASSAU) 6 I, Elbia Merino, a shorthand reporter 7 within and for the State of New York, do hereby 8 certify that the within is a true and accurate 9 transcript of the statement taken on July 23, 2019. 10 I further certify that I am not related to any of the 11 parties to this action by blood or by marriage, and 12 that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this 13 matter. 14 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my 15 hand this 30th day of July, 2019. 16 _signature_ 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p>